



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

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# News Release

## **Six Rampart-area gang members arrested on drug and immigration violations** *Arrests stem from joint criminal probe by ICE and Los Angeles Police Department*

LOS ANGELES – Six suspected members of a Rampart-area street gang, including two men believed to be part of the organization’s leadership, are in custody today following a joint criminal investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Rampart Division.

The suspects, including two “shot callers” for a Rampart-area street gang, were arrested during a two-day enforcement action that concluded late yesterday. Four of those arrested face federal criminal charges, including immigration and drug violations. Another subject was picked up on a state drug charge, specifically possession of cocaine base for sale. The sixth target had an outstanding order of deportation and was arrested on administrative immigration violations. The operation also resulted in the arrest of a seventh suspect, a female associate of the street gang, who was wanted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office on an outstanding narcotics warrant. Three additional members of the organization are still being sought.

In conjunction with the arrests, authorities also executed a series of federal search warrants. During those searches, ICE agents seized 26 grams of crack cocaine and a loaded 9mm handgun.

The arrests and searches stem from a six-month investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and LAPD detectives into the activities of the “Crazy Riders,” a Latino street gang suspected of involvement in extortion, narcotics trafficking, prostitution, and document counterfeiting activities in the MacArthur Park and Rampart neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

“With these arrests, we have dealt a serious blow to this street gang and its associated criminal activities,” said Robert Schoch, special agent in charge of the ICE office of investigations in Los Angeles. “This investigation shows how ICE is working with its local law enforcement partners to dismantle those criminal organizations that pose a threat to the safety of our communities.”

“This operation is another example of LAPD's commitment to mitigate street gangs’ influence,” said Captain John Egan, head of the Rampart Police Station. “Joint operations like this one help to dismantle gangs by targeting the gang leadership.”

Those arrested in connection with the investigation and the related charges are:

- Carlos Rodas-Vasquez, 31, Rampart area of Los Angeles, Salvadorian, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine;
- Juan Flores, 42, Rampart area of Los Angeles, Salvadorian, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine;
- Walter Gonzalez, 35, Torrance, Guatemalan, re-entry after deportation;
- Enrique Sanchez, 34, Rampart area of Los Angeles, Mexican, re-entry after deportation;
- Manuel De Jesus Perez, 38, South Central Los Angeles, Honduran, state charge of possession of cocaine base for sale;
- Juan Francisco Zambrana, 33, Riverside, Honduran, arrested on administrative immigration charges.

ICE's participation in the joint investigation is part of Operation Community Shield, a nationwide ICE-led initiative seeking to disrupt and dismantle violent street gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE. Since its launch last year, Operation Community Shield has resulted in the arrest of more than 3,100 gang members from more than 300 different gangs.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*